

CLAIMS

- 1) Store for stocking tubes therein, comprising means (4) for feeding tubes (1) into the store, and means (7) for unloading the tubes (1) therefrom, the store being located between said supply means (4) and said unloading means (7), characterized in that it comprises a plurality of supports (8) each of which defines a plane inclined towards said unloading means (7) and able to receive a plurality of tubes (1) from said supply means (4): each of said supports (8) being movable between a stand-by position where it is empty, a position of transit of tubes (1) in which it defines an inclined plane which connects said tube-supplying means (4) to said tube-unloading means (7), and a stock position in which it is full up.
- 2) Store according to claim 1, characterized in that the movement for disposing said supports (8) to said stand-by, transit and stock positions is developed in the vertical direction.
- 3) Store according to claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the said transit position is intermediate between the stand-by and stock positions.
- 4) Store according to claims 1-3, characterized in that in the said stand-by position, the said supports (8) result below said transit position.
- 5) Store according to claim 1, characterized in that the said supports are connected to each other via two open side chains (85).
- 6) Store according to claim 1, characterized in that each of said supports (8) consists of a central bar or cross-piece to which more rods (81) are fixed orthogonally thereto.
- 7) Store according to claim 1, 5 and 6, characterized in that the said side chains (85) are connected to said bars (80).
- 8) Store according to one or more preceding claims, characterized in that, in correspondence of said means (4) for feeding the tubes (1), provision is made for a plurality

of fixed chutes (11) oriented towards the store, and in that, in correspondence of said means (7) for unloading the tubes (1), provision is made for a plurality of fixed chutes (12) oriented towards the same means (7) and extending towards the store.

9) Store according to one or more preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises two pairs of uprights (82) which act as guides for said supports (8).

10) Store according to one or more preceding claims, characterized in that it has a variable geometry.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 29 March 2004 (29.03.04) ;
original claims 1 and 5 amended ; remaining claims unchanged]

- 1) Store for stocking tubes therein, comprising means (4) for feeding tubes (1) into the store, and means (7) for unloading the tubes (1) therefrom, the store being located between said
5 supply means (4) and said unloading means (7), the store comprising a plurality of supports (8) each of which defines a plane inclined towards said unloading means (7) and able to receive a plurality of tubes (1) from said supply means (4), each of said supports (8) being movable between a stand-by
10 position where it is empty, a position of transit of tubes (1) in which it defines an inclined plane which connects said tube-supplying means (4) to said tube-unloading means (7), and a stock position in which it is full up, characterized in that said supports (8) are connected to each other via
15 connecting members having variable configuration.
- 2) Store according to claim 1, characterized in that the movement for disposing said supports (8) to said stand-by, transit and stock positions is developed in the vertical direction.
- 20 3) Store according to claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the said transit position is intermediate between the stand-by and stock positions.
- 4) Store according to claims 1-3, characterized in that in the said stand-by position, the said supports (8) result
25 below said transit position.
- 5) Store according to claim 1, characterized in that the said connecting members are two open side chains (85).
- 6) Store according to claim 1, characterized in that each of said supports (8) consists of a central bar or cross-piece to
30 which more rods (81) are fixed orthogonally thereto.
- 7) Store according to claim 1, 5 and 6, characterized in that the said side chains (85) are connected to said bars (80).

8) Store according to one or more preceding claims,
characterized in that, in correspondence of said means (4)
for feeding the tubes (1), provision is made for a plurality
of fixed chutes (11) oriented towards the store, and in that,
5 in correspondence of said means (7) for unloading the tubes
(1), provision is made for a plurality of fixed chutes (12)
oriented towards the same means (7) and extending towards the
store.

9) Store according to one or more preceding claims,
10 characterized in that it comprises two pairs of uprights (82)
which act as guides for said supports (8).

10) Store according to one or more preceding claims,
characterized in that it has a variable geometry.